

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on Tuesday April 19, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room, Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.

ATTENDANCE: Lawrence J. Chaffee, Louis U. Valanzola, Keven D. Pratt, Mary A. Parsons and Kelli A. O'Brien-McKinnon

Acting Chairman Lawrence J. Chaffee led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Chaffee – Before we get into the agenda of the meeting I would like to introduce our three newly elected Selectmen: Louis U. Valanzola – Thank you for giving me another chance, another three years and hopefully we can get more done; Mary A. Parsons – Thank you to the voters; Kelli A. O'Brien-McKinnon – Thank you everyone who voted for me and I hope I live up to your expectations. Mr. Chaffee welcomed everyone aboard. We are now going to have the reorganization of the board.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to appoint Keven D. Pratt as Chairman
Second: NONE

Motion: Mr. Valanzola to appoint Lawrence J. Chaffee as Chairman
Mr. Chaffee respectfully declined because of his job responsibilities. That is why I nominated Keven because he works in Town and is readily available.

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint Louis U. Valanzola as Chairman
Second: NONE

BOS: "This is going to be a first!" This could be very interesting.

Motion: Mr. Valanzola to appoint Mary A. Parsons as Chairman
Second: NONE

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to appoint Louis U. Valanzola as Chairman
Second: Mr. Chaffee
Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Pratt to appoint Lawrence J. Chaffee as Vice Chairman
Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon
Vote: 5-0

A. MINUTES - NONE

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. SSTDC Update – Terry Fancher

Informational packets were distributed to Selectmen. We anticipate that we will take a Board of Directors vote next Monday evening. We want to make sure all five of our board members will be available for that evening. Questions you have tonight I will attempt to answer them to the best of my ability or I will get answers for you in writing before we take that vote. For the Re-use Plan to go into effect all three communities have to vote for it. For the Re-use Plan it requires a majority vote and for the Zoning Plan it requires a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting. The following areas were discussed: TIP (widening route 18); the Union Street issue; Construction equipment & impacts in residential neighborhoods; Zoning applied to plan; BRAC requirements; 40R Funding; Cleanup; Bedrooms; Open Space questions will be answered in writing; and Sewerage. Mrs. Parsons brought up numerous questions... “in terms of this plan there needs to be major revisions. I have no problems with the developer making a profit...but I do when it’s at the expense of this Town.” Mr. Fancher will address these issues in writing. Mrs. Parsons – Open Space has been waiting three months for their answers in writing. Mr. Fancher – I’m aware of that. I will need to get back to you on the sub-division on Union Street. I do not have an answer for you. Mrs. Parsons ... all three Towns have traffic issues. If you have the three Towns not wanting traffic that should be telling Lennar ... do something about your plan. Mr. Fancher – This is a newly elected board, this is a good time for you to sit down and say “Okay, how do we all get something we want out of this?” Mr. Fancher – When this gets into a MEPA Review and phasing starts, unless this meets the strict stringent standards that we know are in place, that won’t happen. Mr. Valanzola – What are the options for getting on and off that base? Mr. Fancher – There is one additional road that is in the plan that was not there before. Mr. Valanzola – Questioned the pressure we are getting from the Navy....is there any way of getting an extension? Mr. Fancher – If there are major issues that need to be reflected in the Master Plan, I need to know about those almost immediately. We will have our vote next Monday unless something unforeseen out of our control happens. We have instructed our law firm to bring the documents with her so that whatever changes come up in this week we can approved the changes to that document that night. There is a framework for making changes as long as it doesn’t affect the wording. Playing fields were discussed. Mrs. Parsons – Requested information on housing numbers. Mr. Fancher – I will find out. Mr. Chaffee – Is concerned that Lennar is playing both sides against the middle. If this plan doesn’t pass at Town Meeting...will Lennar still benefit? Mr. Fancher – “It’s been our belief that it works better for communities to have the mitigation plans in place prior to Town Meeting. Because after Town Meeting there is not this large incentive for Lennar to sit down and negotiate with you.” Mr. Wilson, Environment Consultant, gave an overview of storm water management on the project site. Question and answers were addressed afterwards.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Announce Annual Appointments

We are accepting applications for the following boards/committees:

Cable TV Advisory Committee	Council on Aging
Charter Maintenance	Conservation Commission
Cultural Council	Historical Commission
Internet Committee	Memorial Committee
Open Space Committee	Youth commission
Zoning Board of Appeals	

Applications are due by Wednesday, May 11, 2005 at the Board of Selectmen's Office. Mr. Plante – All incumbents have received notification that they are up for reappointment. They need to come into the office and fill out an application. Just because there are incumbents does not mean that you cannot apply for a board or committee. Mr. George Anderson who was our representative for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council will not be reapplying this year so we will need someone to fill this position.

2. Station Liquors – Change of Manager

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to open hearing

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0

Attorney Meridith Whippen introduced Binal Patel who will be the new Manager of Station Liquors. Mr. Chaffee – Reminded her that all employees had to be TIPS Certified. In the past we have had problems with that store selling alcohol to minors...this is being watched. Mr. & Mrs. Patel: Currently they are the only employees and they do have a machine in place to check identification.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to close hearing

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve Binal Patel new manager at Station Liquor

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0

3. Set Fee for One Day Liquor License

Mr. Plante – We were approached by a catering company in Town that were interested in getting a one day liquor license. Mary Stewart contacted the ABCC and found out that you being the licensing authority are authorized to issue one

3. Set Fee for One Day Liquor License (Continued)

day liquor licenses. You are also authorized to set the fee as you see fit. They recommended that we contact the Town of Marshfield as they recently did some of these. Attached you will find an application and proposed license for your approval. Marshfield is charging \$20.00 for one day licenses...we felt that \$25.00 was more reasonable. They will come under the same requirements and anyone serving liquor for them will have to be TIPS Certified. It would be just like a normal license only it is for one day.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve the One Day Liquor License forms and

Set fee at \$25.00

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

4. Discuss Lottery Revenues

Mr. Plante – There has been a great deal of discussion about the fair share of lottery funds. We all know that the lottery was put in place for cities and towns to supplement State Aide primarily due to the result of 2 ½. Recently the governor and the legislature has decided that they are taking part of that money to use to help balance the State's budget rather than sending it back to the cities and towns. Also, there appears to be an unfair distribution. It looks like that the amount of revenues that are coming out of some communities are not getting a comparable return. Some towns put in far less and get more back. We suspect that Rockland is probably a community that has a fair amount of revenue in the lottery system. I wanted to ask the BOS to authorize me to send a letter under the Selectmen's letterhead to the Lottery Commission asking for the amounts of revenue (over the last 5 years) Rockland has contributed. Then we can compare that with lottery funds that have come back in State Aide to see if Rockland is getting a fair shake or whether or not we are getting short changed. Whether we can do anything about it remains to be seen. However, I feel that it is information that we should know. In an article (Enterprise) by Howard Manly...it caught my eye that the City of Lawrence puts in \$27.6 million dollars and they only get back \$16.9. They claim that there is a formula that they use.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to give Mr. Plante permission to contact the

Lottery Commission on behalf of the BOS

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Valanzola suggested that this may be a good time to invite Senator Morrissey and Representative Nyman to Rockland. Mr. Plante – That may be a good idea as it appears that the House and Senate do not have any intention of increasing State Aide including Chapter 70, which is a big issue. Mr. Valanzola – What bothers me with that is that they didn't roll back that temporary income tax from 5.3% to 5%....that's going to save them about \$250 million a year....they can

4. Discuss Lottery Revenues (Continued)

certainly pump some of that back into the community. Mr. Plante – In addition they are also diverting lottery aide. I will invite them if you would like for May 2nd.

5. Rockland Allied Veterans Council

Letter was read from Jeff Najarian. He was not present.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to table discussion unless he appears before meeting ends or schedule him for next meeting.

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plante spoke on the Town Website www.rockland-ma.gov. The Internet Committee has done a terrific job and I encourage everyone to take a look at it.

I sent a memo to all departments that have motor vehicles to make a listing of all the vehicles. The reason we did that was to take a look at the mileage. Our insurance company that carries our liability insurance mentioned that we may be over insuring some of our vehicles. Example: If we have a vehicle with 100-125,000 miles and we are carrying full collusion That doesn't make a lot of sense because if that vehicles is totaled we are not going to get anything for it anyway. We may be able to save some money on liability insurance. I will keep the BOS posted on that.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Valanzola read letter from Everett & Margery Blades praising the Fire Department (Erick Peterson, Charley Williams & Lt. Hussey) for their very compassionate help when their daughter Annalee took a terrible fall.

Letter from Beverly Borges (COA Director) to Chief Donovan thanking them for their help with the recent visitation of the Boston Red Sox World Series Championship Series Trophy in Rockland. We shuttled the seniors down and it worked out very well. Everyone is most appreciative of the opportunity to view the trophy and the many Red Sox Fans here at the Senior Center are still talking about it.

Letter was read from Joan Currier Virta expressing gratitude to the Police Department who responded to her call (11:00PM) to handle a raucous party in her apartment building with extreme efficiency and professionalism. I know the Police Department has far more important matters demanding your attention, therefore, I sincerely appreciate your efforts on my behalf.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Chaffee – I'd like to offer my thoughts to the family of Greg Pigeon. As many of you know we had a very bad motorcycle accident on Plain /West Water Streets involving a wire. It came down at the same time as the Police Officer on the motorcycle went by. It completely caught the motorcycle and flipped him around. He landed on the ground rolling a few times (luckily he stayed on the same side of the street). Greg is recovering and hopefully will be home from the hospital soon. He's a very fine Police Officer and we wish him well.

At our next meeting I would like to have the subject of the Town Administrators Contract on the agenda. It was a subject of great concern and it is something that this board needs to take care of. We need to get that contract settled one way or the other and move forward.

For our new Selectmen: we have a Little League Parade this Sunday at 12 noon. They always appreciate members of the BOS being in attendance and if you're able to come I know they will appreciate it.

Mrs. Parsons – I attended the meeting of the Restoration Advisory Board at the base. I was informed by the Navy that they at least take the transfer of land seriously. They are going to be in contact with the Rockland Conservation Commission with permitting issues with the superfund site (the firefighter training area). Another issue I heard about that the Water Department waived a \$60,000 Systems Development Fee for a developer. I would like to request the information in regard to that.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to ask the Water Department to attend next meeting to explain waiving \$60,000 fee with documentation/policy for fees

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

Mr. Valanzola – I was at the Viet Nam Vet's Dedication (tape distorted voice). I would like to see meeting schedules sent to Sterling to put on the website. Also it would be nice to have the meeting televised as many people do not get A chance to attend them but it would be nice to be able to watch them.

I would also like to welcome back Mary Parsons and also welcome our new member Kelli O'Brien-McKinnon. Hopefully we can get a lot done here these next three years. Thank you to all the voters.

Mr. Pratt – I also would like to welcome back Lou and Mary and also our new member Kelli O'Brien-McKinnon. I would also like to take time to thank all the voter. To those 33% who came out THANK YOU.

Mrs. Kelli O'Brien-McKinnon – I'm all set. I'll be quite this time.

Chief Sammon – The Fire Department has been awarded a grant similar to what we had for the new fire truck. The Town will have to kick in 10% of this grant.

F. OPEN FORUM

It is a \$154,000 grant. What it gives the Town is equipment (boots, helmets, coats, etc.). I'm just trying to find the 10% somewhere. I'd hate to us lose it. Whatever you can do I'd appreciate it. Mr. Valanzola – Is there any money left in the CD Fund? Mr. Plante – I will check. Mrs. Parsons – If there is already an article for some of this equipment can we not use that money for the 10% if he is getting the equipment free? Mr. Plante & Mr. Chaffee – you can amend an articulated down....you can amend on Town Meeting floor – that one might be one option. Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon – What is the deadline? Chief Sammon – the end of May but the sooner the better. Welcome aboard everyone.

Andy Trintaffelow – I received a cartoon. I just want to say when I voice my opinion...it's my opinion. I don't go behind your door – I say it to your face. I don't believe the \$10,000 raise for the Town Administrator is warranted. I'm sorry...that is the way I feel. I think it was wrong him sending me that cartoon. I'm not a back stabber. Mr. Valanzola – You shouldn't also be posting information up in a website. Mr. Plante – As a matter of routine I do not monitor the website in Town because the information in there isn't worth it. Someone in Town Hall brought me a copy of what Mr. Triantaffelow was saying. For some reason (I don't know why) he thinks I should be terminated. He's never talked to me or come to me about this. I took great offense to that. He did not come to me face to face...it's easy to say things on the internet and then run the other way. I felt I needed to let him know that I wasn't pleased with his comments. But rather than put it on the internet for everyone to see ... I took a little cartoon and sent it from me to him. It was not for general publication. He seems to take great offense to that. I would remind Mr. Triantaffelow that when he joined the Marine Corps. he took an oath and that oath was to "defend the Constitution". I took the same oath. That Constitution says that you have freedom of speech – you have the right to say whatever you want. He has the right to say what he wants, I have the right to say what I want. Apparently he feels that his right is more than my right. That's the end of it as far as I am concerned....we move on. We have a lot more important things to do. I would only ask him that if he has a problem with me to come see me. My door is always open and we'll discuss it. I don't want it being discussed on the internet.

Theresa Buffum – I would like to speak up on behalf of Mr. Plante. I went in this to ask for a file document. He gave me the complete file on what I asked for. He didn't bat an eye. Just went and got it and gave it to me. He gave me all the time in the world to look at it. His assistant wasn't in the room and she came in later and made copies and everything went smoothly. We had a discussion about a missing document (Mr. Plante – which I have by the way.) The result is he gave me what I wanted. What he did last week with open government was more important than this little thing going back & forth on the internet (which I read) and it was deplorable what this man (Andy) said about him. Why can't he confront him in person....I go right up to Mr. Plante and talk to him.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mr. Valanzola – I agree. There is too much of this in Town lately. The bickering and infighting has to stop.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn to Executive Session for the purposes of Collective Bargaining not to reconvene.

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0 Mr. Chaffee-yes, Mrs. Parsons-yes, Mr. Pratt – yes, Mrs. O’Brien-McKinnon-yes and Mr. Valanzola-yes

**LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**BRADLEY A. PLANTE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**

